

## Capsule Summary

### **Inventory No. WA-II-279**

Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm

17834 Mansfield Road

Washington County, MD

Ca. 1770; ca.1790; ca.1890 (house); 1880 and 1890 (barn)

Access: Public

The Joseph R. Poffenberger property, part of the land grant known as Addition to Loss and Gain, is a farm containing 122 acres located on the northern side Mansfield Road on Antietam National Battlefield. The land is hilly, sloping down to the southwest. The house is the main building on the farm, and it sits south central to the boundaries of the property. North of the house sits the outhouse as well as a hog pen, to the east of that is a chicken coop and a pump house. Further east of that is a wood timber-framed Pennsylvania bank barn with a stonewall surrounding the barnyard. Immediately to the south of that is a frame wagon shed/ corncrib, further south is a blacksmith shop and a carriage house. Slightly northwest of the blacksmith shed is a stone and log washhouse with a well pump to the northeastern side. Northwest of this washhouse is a stone foundation, to the north of that the foundation of a root cellar, and at the northwestern corner of the house is a concrete foundation and stone foundation. There are a few remnants of a foundation of the springhouse to the southwest of the house. This nomination consists of ten contributing buildings, as well as four contributing structures (foundation ruins).

The Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm is significant under National Register Criterion A as an intact agricultural landscape, which is representative of the development of agriculture in the central Maryland from the region's settlement era through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farm

is also significant under National Register Criterion A for its role as a staging area and hospital during and after the Battle of Antietam. The farm complex is also significant under National Register Criterion C for its distinctive collection of central Maryland farm and domestic buildings, including the 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling house that retains much of its original character despite later additions to the building. The Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm has been noted as historically significant since the events of September 17, 1862, better known as the Battle of Antietam, unfolded around the farmstead. After pushing back the Confederate pickets of Brigadier General John Bell Hood from the Samuel Poffenberger to the north of the Joseph Poffenberger farm on the evening of the 16th of September, Union Major General Joseph Hooker's I Corps spent the night on the northern slope of a ridge just behind Joseph Poffenberger's house. Their own pickets were then sent past the farm buildings to the southern edge of the Poffenberger woodlot, an area that would soon become known as the North Woods. Following the daylong battle, the Joseph Poffenberger house, like nearly all the farmhouses in the Sharpsburg area, was used to shelter the injured soldiers until their transport to more permanent hospitals in Frederick. But for nearly 100 years before the great battle, the property had been occupied and farmed. The remarkable intact collection of agricultural and domestic buildings are representative of the history and development of agriculture and the associated buildings in central Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-II-279

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Poffenberger, Joseph R. Farm  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 17834 Mansfield Road not for publication  
city, town Sharpsburg X vicinity  
county Washington

### 3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name United States Dept. of the Interior - National Park Service  
street and number P.O. Box 158 telephone 301-432-5124  
city, town Sharpsburg state MD zip code 21782

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington Co. Courthouse liber 1578 folio 604  
city, town Hagerstown tax map 72 tax parcel 124 tax ID number unknown

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☒ Other: Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	10
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	4
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	14
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Noncontributing
				buildings
				sites
				structures
				objects
				Total
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. WA-II-279

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### *Summary*

The Joseph R. Poffenberger property, part of the land grant known as Addition to Loss and Gain, is a farm containing 122 acres located on the northern side Mansfield Road on Antietam National Battlefield. The land is hilly, sloping down to the southwest. The house is the main building on the farm, and it sits south central to the boundaries of the property. North of the house sits the outhouse as well as a hog pen, to the east of that is a chicken coop and a pump house. Further east of that is a wood timber-framed Pennsylvania bank barn with a stonewall surrounding the barnyard. Immediately to the south of that is a frame wagon shed/corncrib, further south is a blacksmith shop and a carriage house. Slightly northwest of the blacksmith shed is a stone and log washhouse with a well pump to the northeastern side. Northwest of this washhouse is a stone foundation, to the north of that the foundation of a root cellar, and at the northwestern corner of the house is a concrete foundation and stone foundation. There are a few remnants of a foundation of the springhouse to the southwest of the house. This nomination consists of ten contributing buildings, as well as four contributing structures (foundation ruins).

### Main House:

The log three-bay, two-story dwelling faces southwest. It was initially a 1 ½ story house raised to two full stories, as indicated by architectural evidence in the building. The front (south) elevation has a full-length, hipped-roof porch with six stone steps leading up to it and wood decorative brackets on the porch supports. The balustrade around the porch is approximately three feet tall with decorative balusters. The porch sits atop three stone piers. The windows have two over two pane sash with wooden sills and muntons. There is a ca. 1880s ell addition on the north elevation of the house, containing a two-story recessed porch. The west elevation is eight bays, including two windows in the original section of the house and three windows and one door with a shed-roof porch in the addition. All windows are two over two sash; attic windows are single pane. All of the windows in the addition have decorative pointed architraves. The log section of the house has a single brick chimney on west gable end and is sheathed with a standing seam metal roof. Standing seam metal also covers front the porch. The addition roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles; there are two interior brick chimneys, one in the north gable and one near the south end joining the original house. The entire house is sheathed with wood German lapped siding.

The interior of the log section of the house on the first floor is divided into two rooms. The front (south) entrance opens into the larger southwest parlor. Along the west wall is a boxed closet-like enclosure adjoining the now-closed stone fireplace; the interior walls of the enclosure are whitewashed logs and it appears to have been the original staircase area before the addition was added in the 1880s. The staircase now runs east-west along the north wall of the log section



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and leads to the upper story. The smaller east room is divided by a frame (plastered) wall with two doors; the door moldings date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the doors are plank with grooved horizontal battens and H-L iron hinges. The addition has two rooms on the first floor. The room adjoining the log section appears to have been used as a dining room. The northern-most room in the rear is the kitchen large, now-closed fireplace on the north wall with a heavy, plain mantelpiece. Along the south interior wall is a boxed stair leading to the upper story chambers and access to the cellar.

The attic is accessed from the kitchen stairway. There is a ghost roofline and drip course on the brick chimney in the west gable of the original section of the house that suggests that the roof was raised at some unknown point in time. Window moldings on the second story windows of the log section indicate that the roof was raised in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The cellar under the addition includes a large intrusion of limestone bedrock on the north end from which water freely pours during wet weather. Under the old section of the house the cellar only occurs in the east half. The supports under the original structure were rough-hewn logs.

### Barn:

The barn is a Pennsylvania Standard (Ensminger typography) bank barn that faces south. The southwest end below the cantilevered forebay is closed by an extension of the stone foundation wall. An earlier barn, probably in this location, fell down and was later rebuilt by Otho J. Poffenberger in two phases in 1880 and 1890. It sits northeast from the main house. The barn is timber framed, supported by five bents, on a limestone foundation. The main entrance of the barn is on the north elevation with a pair of large sliding doors. The east elevation has a wooden cross-batten split door and wooden window to the left of the door. In the center of the barn there is a threshing floor between the second and fourth bents. The threshing floor continues onto the cantilevered forebay. On either side of the threshing floor, in the west and east ends of the upper barn, is a mow where hay and straw is stored. In the forebay area adjacent to the mows, there are narrow granaries. The bents are fastened together using mortise and tenon joints. There is a hay track along the interior peak of the roof. The roof is covered with standing seam metal sheets. The lower level of the barn has various wooden stalls. The barnyard is small with a stonewall surrounding the southwest corner and a wooden gate leading into the barnyard. Immediately east of the east gable end of the barn is a large depression into the earth bank which is littered with loose quarried stone. A historic photograph of the farmstead from after 1890 shows a barn structure at this location, probably a hay barn. This foundation ruin is considered a contributing structure.

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#### Outbuildings:

Just southwest of the barnyard is a large wagon shed/corn crib. It has vertical rough sawn siding and a north south gable roof with metal sheathing. The west half of the building has a pull-through wagon shed and corncrib in the west wall. The west wall sits on extended posts as raised piers to allow air circulation. The east half of the building is an enclosed space (no access), which may have been used as a workshop or hog pen. The building has a full upper story with gable end access door, probably used for hay storage.

Approximately twenty yards west of the barn there is a pump house. It has vertical tongue and groove plank siding and a tin roof. There is a door on the east side facing the barn. The structure contains a water pump. Northwest of the pump house is a poultry shed in very dilapidated condition. It has vertical rough sawn siding. The structure faces south and has a shed roof covered with metal sheets. The front elevation has a door and two low horizontal openings. North of the main house is a hog shed. It is a very small building that faces east with a shed-covered exterior pen area on the north side. It has vertical rough sawn siding and a shed roof of metal sheets. Fence posts in the ground around this building indicate the extent of the hog yard.

Located to the south of the main house there is a cluster of three structures. One is a blacksmith shop, one is a carriage house, and one is a washhouse. The blacksmith's shop is a gabled frame building on stone foundation with a shed addition on the south elevation. It is covered with rough sawn vertical siding, on the north elevation there is remnants of scantling board and batten siding. The entrance to the shop is located on the north side. Also on the north side there is also a rectangular opening approximately three feet tall and seven feet wide. There is a hinged cover over this opening made of rough planks. Upon entering the door the hearth and interior brick chimney is to the right. The stone slab hearth sits on a limestone foundation. A chimney of brick continues up almost to the roof, but not through it. There is no evidence of a chimney on the outside roof, indicating that the roof has been replaced since use of the blacksmith hearth was discontinued. Directly under the hinged opening on the interior north wall is a workbench constructed of planks. The floor of the shop is dirt although there is some evidence that the floor may have been paved with brick, it has been significantly disturbed by groundhogs. The south shed addition may have served as the horse shoeing area. Immediately southeast of the blacksmith's shop is a frame, gable end carriage house/garage. It has vertical board siding and a roof sheathed with metal sheets.

The washhouse is constructed of log with a stone addition on the east end. A massive stone exterior chimney covers much of the west gable end. The log portion of the building is sheathed with vertical board siding. On the north elevation is a small entrance with plank door. There is a horizontal multi-pane window hinged at the top on the south elevation. A single window with wood lintel is located in the stone east gable end. The roof is sheathed with metal sheets.

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Approximately thirty yards northeast of the house is a dilapidated privy. It is sheathed with vertical board siding. The small building is a shed-type "one-seater" with metal roof.

Southwest of the main house are the remnants of a root cellar. The west, north, and east walls are still intact and are made of limestone. The roof and part of the south wall have collapsed. There is evidence of a doorway on the south side. The west, north and east walls are approximately eight feet tall. Historically, this root cellar was covered with sod, the south wall being the entrance elevation (see attached historic photo).

Just northwest of the main house is what remains of the foundation of another outbuilding. All that remains is a limestone foundation. Pictures, taken by the Historical American Building Survey, show that the building was probably a smokehouse. Thirty yards southwest of the washhouse is the apparent ruins of a springhouse.

### Resource Count:

#### Ten contributing buildings:

- Log and frame house
- Timber frame barn
- Frame wagon shed/corncrib
- Frame blacksmith shop
- Frame carriage house/garage shed
- Stone and log washhouse
- Frame hog shed
- Frame poultry shed
- Frame pump house
- Frame privy

#### Four contributing structures:

- Hay barn foundation ruin
- Root cellar ruin
- Smokehouse foundation ruin
- Springhouse foundation ruin

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

<b>Specific dates</b>	c.1770-	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	c.1770; c.1790; c.1890 (house); 1880 and 1890 (barn)		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register      ☐ Maryland Register      ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### *Statement of Significance*

The Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm is significant under National Register Criterion A as an intact agricultural landscape, which is representative of the development of agriculture in the central Maryland from the region's settlement era through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farm is also significant under National Register Criterion A for its role as a staging area and hospital during and after the Battle of Antietam. The farm complex is also significant under National Register Criterion C for its distinctive collection of central Maryland farm and domestic buildings, including the 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling house that retains much of its original character despite later additions to the building. The Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm has been noted as historically significant since the events of September 17, 1862, better known as the Battle of Antietam, unfolded around the farmstead. After pushing back the Confederate pickets of Brigadier General John Bell Hood from the Samuel Poffenberger to the north of the Joseph Poffenberger farm on the evening of the 16th of September, Union Major General Joseph Hooker's I Corps spent the night on the northern slope of a ridge just behind Joseph Poffenberger's house. Their own pickets were then sent past the farm buildings to the southern edge of the Poffenberger woodlot, an area that would soon become known as the North Woods. Following the daylong battle, the Joseph Poffenberger house, like nearly all the farmhouses in the Sharpsburg area, was used to shelter the injured soldiers until their transport to more permanent hospitals in Frederick. But for nearly 100 years before the great battle, the property had been occupied and farmed. The remarkable intact collection of agricultural and domestic buildings are representative of the history and development of agriculture and the associated buildings in central Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region.

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### Resource History

Carved out of Frederick County in 1776, Washington County included the westernmost reaches of Maryland. The land had been offered at very low prices beginning in 1732 to induce immigrants from the northern colonies, particularly Pennsylvania, and from Europe, to settle in Maryland rather than continue their trek through the valley to Virginia. A number of those with more disposable wealth began to acquire larger tracts of land, either to establish themselves as "lords of the manor," or to sell smaller tracts at a profit. Grants or patents of land were obtained from the Maryland land office while the grantee paid to have the property surveyed. Many of the smaller tracts were sold to migrant farming families looking for 100-300 acres, a size suited to the labor of a single family.

The Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm was originally part of the large estate owned by Joseph Chapline through much of the western Maryland region's settlement period. Chapline had acquired large tracts of land through out-right grants and purchases. Lying to the east of Joseph Chapline, Sr.'s plantation known as Mount Pleasant, which overlooked the northeast bank of the Potomac River, was his 1765 patent of 1,168 ½ acres called *Loss and Gain*, a resurvey on his 717-acre tract called *Resurvey on Hopewell* patented in 1755.<sup>1</sup> Chapline was among the largest of the landowners in the western lands (Lord Baltimore, Proprietor of Maryland, held the 10,000-acre reserve known as Conococheague Manor along the Potomac River to the northwest), which he sold in various parcels, increasing his wealth with each year. When he wrote his Last Will and Testament in 1768, Joseph Chapline devised *Loss and Gain* to his son James. In 1774, *Addition to Loss and Gain* was surveyed and patented with 1,484 acres.<sup>2</sup>

It was James Chapline who began leasing and selling the family farm-sized tracts of 100 to 300 acres through the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Robert Smith purchased a number of 100-acre tracts in the neighborhood of *Addition to Loss and Gain*. In 1813, Smith sold 272 acres of this land to Christian Middlekauff (Liber Y, Folio 564). Middlekauff subdivided off 97 acres, which became the property of David Neikirk (Nighkirk) sometime before 1829.<sup>3</sup> Neikirk sold the 97-acre farm to Daniel Finfruck in 1829 for \$2,000. The deed described the parcel adjoining Middlekauff's farm, sharing a "corner of John Myers," (later known as the D.R. Miller farm), and adjoining 125 acres "leased by James Chapline to John Wade."<sup>4</sup> In 1833, Finfruck recorded a mortgage on his property with Jacob Kaufman (later Coffman) for \$7,000 (Liber OO, Folio 532). The agreement stated that Finfruck was to pay \$3,000 within a 10-year term. No release of the mortgage was ever recorded, so it appears that Finfruck defaulted on his loan and Kaufman took possession of the farm in 1843.

On February 8, 1838, Joseph Poffenberger married Mary Ann Coffman, in a service by Reverend Jacobs. Joseph was born on July 26, 1812, the youngest son of Adam Poffenberger, (b.1755), who was the eldest son of John, (b.1735) Washington County's first resident with the Poffenberger name. Mary Ann's father, Jacob Coffman (Kaufman), eventually sold the couple the farm on the east side of the Hagerstown Pike near Sharpsburg in 1852.<sup>5</sup> The 1850



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Agricultural Census indicates that Joseph was farming 124 acres two years prior to the 1852 purchase of 144 acres from his father-in-law. Jacob Coffman owned a large amount of land along the Hagerstown turnpike and could easily have parceled an additional 20 acres to Joseph and Mary Ann's farm.

Although Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger never had children, U.S. Population Census records from 1840 show two children living with them, one male between 10 and 15 and one female between 5 and 10. The Poffenberger family in Washington County and the Sharpsburg District was quite large however, and it is not unlikely that the couple would have taken in relatives in need. In fact, the 1860 census record showed a Poffenberger nephew by the name of Josiah, age 20, who was occupied as a farm hand on the farm, and a 19 year-old woman named Sarah, who may have been Josiah's wife. In 1859, Joseph's farm had grown to 155 acres through a purchase of adjoining land to the east owned by Henry Poffenberger (Liber IN 14, Folio 161). Since the 1860 Agricultural Census shows Joseph farming 166 acres, it appears that he may have also been leasing additional acreage.

Early on the morning of September 17, 1862, the farm became the "jumping off" point for the right end of Union General Hooker's line as it advanced southward, crossing the farm lane and into the woodlot. Upon exiting the woodlot into open fields these men came under heavy artillery fire from the Southern guns across from the Dunker Church to the south and Nicodemus Hill to the west. This cannonade was in turn answered by the nine batteries of Union artillery that were positioned on the ridge behind Joseph's farmstead, which became known as Poffenberger Hill. This position was crucial in supporting Union infantry and in stopping Confederate advances. The most important action from this point however came at mid-afternoon on the 17th.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee devised a plan to send his cavalry commander JEB Stuart around the right end of the Union line, which rested on the edge of the Poffenberger property along the Hagerstown Pike. If successful it would flank the Federals and send them reeling back in confusion and possibly cause the whole line on the northern part of the battlefield to retreat. As Stuart's line was moving he sent some of his artillery under Captain John Pelham east toward the Pike. As Pelham began unlimbering his guns, the artillery atop Poffenberger Hill spotted him, which immediately opened fire causing the Southerners to seek shelter. In an effort to help their comrades Confederate cannon on Nicodemus Hill began firing at the Poffenberger Farm. These too were also quickly silenced. The rapidity with which his guns were taken out of action caused Stuart to delay the movement and then cancel it altogether. Because of the prominence of the hill and the ferocity with which the Union guns attacked the Confederate high command was led to believe that the Federals controlled the terrain all the way to the Potomac River. Lee's plan for turning the enemies' right was foiled.

It is uncertain what Joseph and Mary Ann did during the battle of Antietam but Samuel Poffenberger, on the adjoining farm to the east, went to his father-in-law Samuel Daub's house in Keedysville. Most town residents hid in their cellars or sought refuge in the Killiansburg



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Cave on the Potomac River. It is likely that Joseph and Mary Ann abandoned their farm as well; with the Union 1st Corps battle line directly in front and the 1st Corps artillery directly behind it on Poffenberger Hill, this area was under constant artillery fire throughout the day from Confederate batteries on Nicodemus Heights and those across the pike from the Dunker Church. Being so close to the front lines the farm buildings were immediately used to house the wounded from this section of the Union line.

For obvious reasons the Joseph Poffenberger Farm suffered physical damage during the battle. But after the battle the Federals stayed in the Sharpsburg area for another month using up the resources of the local farms carefully laid by for the coming winter months. A number of the area residents submitted damage claims to the Federal government.<sup>6</sup> Joseph reported property damage to his barn, icehouse, tenant house, and dwelling house totaling \$34.00, a surprisingly low sum. Apparently, the most significant damage came in the form of looted household items, and the food, forage, and firewood referred to as "quartermaster stores" by the army. The Union encampment had taken 138 cords of wood, 300 bushels of wheat, 60 bushels of rye, 120 bushels of oats, plus corn and fodder according to Poffenberger's claim. From the house and yard were taken "Grapes on Vine," a "Garden of Vegetables," six strings of sleigh bells, and "one Gold Bracelet with Diamond." From a claim of \$2,277.55 Poffenberger received no reimbursement from the government. Described in his obituary as "a zealous Democrat," it is quite possible that Joseph was unable to prove his loyalty to the Union;<sup>7</sup> his claim was "disallowed" in 1886, two years before his death. Perhaps most perplexing was the loss of the family bible, reportedly "found" on the battlefield by a Confederate soldier, it eventually found its way back to Maryland and was donated to the Washington County Historical Society in the 1960s, making a nearly complete circuit over its 100 year journey.<sup>8</sup>

The stress from the battle and its aftermath must have been a terrible ordeal. During the war the federal government levied a tax on anyone who made over \$600.00. Joseph's taxable income for the year ending June 1st 1862 was based on his income itself at \$634.00, a buggy worth \$95.00 and a watch with a value of \$130.00 for which he paid a tax of \$34.48. The evidence of his hardship following the 1862 battle is revealed in his income in the remaining years of the war tax, which never surpassed \$600.00 again.

These difficulties were compounded less than two years later on August 13, 1864 when Mary Ann passed away at the age of 46. Like many of her Sharpsburg neighbors, it is possible that Mary Ann's illness was a result of the rampant disease that took soldier and civilian alike following the Antietam battle. However, no evidence of how Mary Ann Poffenberger died has been found.

Joseph never remarried. Again he enlisted the help of a nephew in running the farm; the 1870 census records show he is living with his nephew Alfred Poffenberger. Alfred had been leasing the Mary Grove Locher farm to the southeast, on the western edge of the now-famous West Woods, at the time of the battle in 1862. Listed in the Agricultural Census record under Alfred Poffenberger's name in 1870, Joseph's farm had grown to 194 acres, including 40 acres

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of the North Woods. The farm had substantially increased production of wheat, from 800 bushels in 1860 to 1,450 bushels in 1870, and included 10 horses, 6 cows, 16 sheep, and 18 hogs.

By 1880, Alfred Poffenberger had moved to Iowa and Joseph lived on his farm by then under lease to his nephew Otho J. Poffenberger.<sup>9</sup> In 1888, at age 76, Joseph Poffenberger was in poor health and died on June 13th. His obituary appeared in the Hagerstown newspaper, The Mail on Friday June 15, 1888:

Death of a Valuable Citizen

On Wednesday night one of the most intelligent and prominent of the farmers of our county, Mr. Joseph Poffenberger, died at his residence on the Hagerstown turnpike near Sharpsburg, from blood poisoning. About a year before he had a trouble with the bone in one of his feet rendering surgical attention necessary at different times since, and leading to gangrene which resulted in blood poisoning. Mr. Poffenberger was 76 years of age and besides his connection with agriculture was prominent in all enterprises looking to the general prosperity of his county and active and weighty in the political affairs of his party. From his early years he was a zealous Democrat and took a leading part and was looked up to as a judicious adviser in all things. He was one of the original subscribers to The Mail, and a member of one of the largest and most influential families in the lower part and center of our county.

Joseph and Mary Ann Poffenberger now rest together at the Mountain View Cemetery in Sharpsburg.

Joseph Poffenberger's Will, probated July 3rd, 1888, divided his belongings amongst his nieces and nephews and made Lawson W. Poffenberger executor of the estate.<sup>10</sup> An advertisement to his creditors was placed in the August 3rd and 10th editions of "The Mail" and another on November 23rd of the same year listing the public sale of the land. Despite this listing the property was sold to his nephew Otho J., who had lived with him in his last years. Lawson Poffenberger served as the executor of the estate and sold the property to Otho J. Poffenberger for \$7761.80 on April 15, 1889 (Liber 93, Folio 346). Writing in 1906, T.J.C. Williams described Otho's tenure on the Joseph Poffenberger Farm:

...this farm he [Otho] rented for a few years from his uncle Joseph Poffenberger, and then bought it....At the time that Mr. [Otho] Poffenberger purchased it from his uncle the farm was much run down, but he has brought it up to a high state of cultivation. He remodeled the old part of the dwelling house, which was built of logs a hundred and fifty years ago, and afterwards weatherboarded. He has built a new addition to the old dwelling. He helped to build the barn on the place, a part of which was built in 1880, and the other part in 1890.<sup>11</sup>

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-II-279

Name Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

The attached historic photograph shows Otho J. Poffenberger and his wife Elizabeth with four of five children in front of the Poffenberger house. Note that the house does not yet have the substantial rear addition reportedly added by Otho, probably by 1890. Their first child, Margaret Aurelia, is not shown. Using the birth dates of the children who are shown, the condition of the trees and the fact that Elizabeth would be due to give birth to Harvey on November 20th it seems safe to say that this picture was taken in the early fall of 1880. The youngest child on the left is Joseph William who would eventually purchase the farm in 1932 from his younger brother Allen Luther, heir to Otho's estate. All together the couple would have ten surviving children, seven boys and three girls. A second historic photograph (see attached) shows the farm after completion of Otho Poffenberger's remodeling projects, including the house addition and the two sections of the new barn. Note in this photograph the root cellar south wall in the foreground of the farmstead complex.

Washington County Land Records show that Otho J. Poffenberger sold two small sections of land to the United States government, the beginnings of Antietam National Battlefield. The first for \$367.58 on April 25, 1895 a total area of 2 acres presumably used to create what is now Mansfield Road, which crosses the property (Liber 103, Folio 606). The construction of this portion of Mansfield Avenue made the original farm lane from the Hagerstown Pike obsolete and a new one was made running off the avenue itself. The original lane ran much closer to the house. Today it is nearly impossible to see any trace of it but by looking closely one can see its path. Just to the southwest of the house is a short, flat section with the remnants of a retaining on the uphill side. It then winds its way between the washhouse and blacksmith shop and into the field beyond where a shallow depression can be seen. The second parcel was sold on October 23, 1907 for \$450.00 the United States government purchased 10,797 square feet to be used for a monument dedicated to the 8th Pennsylvania Reserve Corps (Liber 228, Folio 229).

On October 28, 1932, Allen J. Poffenberger, executor of estate of Otho J. Poffenberger, sold 152 acres to Joseph W. Poffenberger for \$9291.95 (Liber ?, Folio ?). In 1944, Joseph W. and his wife Bertha deeded the property to Elmer L. Poffenberger (Liber 192, Folio 256). On June 29, 1966 Fred and Renee Kramer purchased 120 acres (Liber ?, Folio ?). The final transaction of the property occurred on June 8, 2000 when the National Park Service purchased the land from Fred and Renee Kramer for \$384,000.00 (Liber 1578, Folio 604).

Federal Agricultural Census Schedules of Joseph Poffenberger Farm for the years 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880

1850

District #2 Page 62, Line 4

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WA-II-279

Name Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 6

---

Owner/Tenant/Manager: Joseph Poffenberger  
Land: Improved -110 acres  
Unimproved- 14 acres  
Cash Value of Farm: \$5,000.00  
Value of Farm Implements and Machinery: \$250.00  
Livestock: 5- Horses  
6- Milch Cows  
8- Other Cattle  
14- Sheep  
26- Swine  
Value of Livestock: \$569.00  
Value of Slaughtered Animals: \$160.00  
Produce: Bushels-700 of Wheat  
40 of Rye  
200 of Indian Corn  
50 of Oats  
Pounds- 80 of Wool  
500 of Butter  
Tons- 10 of Hay

1860  
Pages 23+24 Sharpsburg District, Line 16

Agent/Owner/Manager: Joseph Poffenberger  
Land: Improved -150 acres  
Unimproved - 16 acres  
Value of Farm: \$7,742.00  
Value of Farm Implements and Machinery: \$400.00  
Livestock: 10- Horses  
4- Milch Cows  
9- Other Cattle  
20- Sheep  
22- Swine  
Value of Livestock: \$800.00  
Value of Slaughtered Animals: \$100.00  
Produce: Bushels- 800 of Wheat  
100 of Rye  
1,000 of Indian Corn

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-II-279

Name Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 7

---

50 of Irish Potatoes  
5 of Clover Seed  
Pounds- 100 of Wool  
200 of Butter  
Tons- 20 of Hay  
Value of Orchard Products: \$10.00

1870

Schedule 3 Pages 5+6, Line 2

NOTE; Joseph is shown on the 1870 Maryland Census living with his nephew Albert.

Agent/Owner/Manager: Albert Poffenberger

Land: Improved- 154 acres

Unimproved-40 acres

Value of Farm: \$13,000.00

Value of Implements and Machinery: \$300.00

Total Amount of Wages Paid During the Year: \$600.00

Livestock: 10-Horses

6- Milch Cows

14- Other Cattle

16- Sheep

18- Swine

Value of Livestock: \$1,300.00

Value of Animals Slaughtered or Sold for Slaughter: \$230.00

Produce: Bushels-1,450 of Winter Wheat

60 of Rye

800 of Indian Corn

30 of Oats

30 of Irish Potatoes

10 of Seed Clover

Pounds- 117 of Wool

400 of Butter

Tons- 25 of Hay

Value of Orchard Products: \$30.00

Est. Value of all Farm Production Incl. Betterments and Addition to Stock: \$2,972.00

1880

Schedule 2 Page 3, Line 8

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-II-279

Name Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 8

Otho J. Poffenberger

Tenure: Rents for share of product.

Land: Improved- 140 acres

Unimproved- Woodland- 13 acres

Other, (old fields)- 38 acres

Grasslands: Mown- 22 acres

Unmown- 62 acres

Value of Farm: Land, Fences and Buildings, \$6,200.00

Value of Farm Implements and Machinery: \$250.00

Cost of Building and Repairing Fences in 1879: \$100.00

Cost of Fertilizer in 1879: \$120.00

Amount Paid for Wages of Farm Labor in 1879: \$385.00

Livestock by June 1, 1880: 4- Horses

6- Milch Cows; 8- Other Cattle; 5- Calves Dropped

2- Cattle Died, Strayed and Stolen and not Recovered.

18- Sheep; 10-Lambs Dropped; 2- Slaughtered; 1- Died

18- Fleeces; Clipped, Shorn or to be Shorn in Spring 1880

27- Swine

30- Barnyard Poultry; 500- Eggs Produced in 1879

Value of Livestock: \$720.00

Produce: Bushels-1,035 of Wheat on 45 acres

500 of Indian Corn on 23 acres

50 of Rye on 2 acres

60 of Potatoes on 1 acre

600 of Apples on 2 acres with 100 bearing trees

Pounds- 144 of Wool

300 of Butter

40 of Honey

Tons- 18 of Hay

Cords- 15 of Wood Cut

Value of Orchard Products Sold or Consumed: \$250.00

Value of Forest Products Sold or Consumed: \$45.00

Estimate of all Farm Productions Sold, Consumed or on Hand in 1879: \$2,200.00

Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catocin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-II-279

Randall, Georgiana H. and Linda C. Poffenberger. "Poffenberger Family Genealogy." manuscript, Washington Co. Historical Society, Hagerstown, MD

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Western Maryland*. Vol. II. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

U.S. Population Census, Washington County, Sharpsburg District No. 1, microfilm collection, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

Washington County Land Records, Washington County Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD.

Williams, Thomas J. C. *History of Washington County, Maryland*. Hagerstown, 1906; reprint, Baltimore: Clearfield Co. and Family Line Publications, 1992.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 120 acres

Acreage of historical setting

Quadrangle name Shepherdstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries for the Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm, as defined by the National Park Service, Antietam National Battlefield are as follows:

On the west bound by Maryland Route 65; on the north, to the top of the ridge, ½ mile from the house; to the east bound by Smoketown Road; and on the south, from Smoketown Road to MD Rt. 65 across Mansfield Ave. See attached 1996 map drawn by Stach and Associates for the Historic Woodlot Restoration Project.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title Lee Graff, Andy Macomber, Brent Rowley, Amanda Tremba; revised 1/03, Edie Wallace, Historian  
organization Shepherd College, in conjunction w/ Paula S. Reed & Associates, Inc. date 12/4/02  
street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070  
city or town Hagerstown state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-II-279

Name Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

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### Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> Scharf, *History of Western Maryland*, p. 985.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> In 1828, an Elizabeth Neikirk married John Middlekauff (Washington Co. Marriage License Index), whether there were related to David Neikirk and Christian Middlekauff is unknown, however, no deed from Middlekauff to Neikirk could be found and it is assumed the transfer occurred through a family relationship. David Neikirk married Susanna Pry in 1831.

<sup>4</sup> Washington Co. Land Record, Deed Book LL, page 89.

<sup>5</sup> Georgiana H. Randall and Linda C. Poffenberger, "Poffenberger Family Genealogy," (manuscript, Washington Co. Historical Society, Hagerstown, MD), pp. 60-61; Poffenberger Family Bible, "Marriages," (Washington Co. Historical Society); Washington Co. Land Records, Deed Book IN 6, page 524.

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Poffenberger Quartermaster Claim, #54/1484, RG 92, Box 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

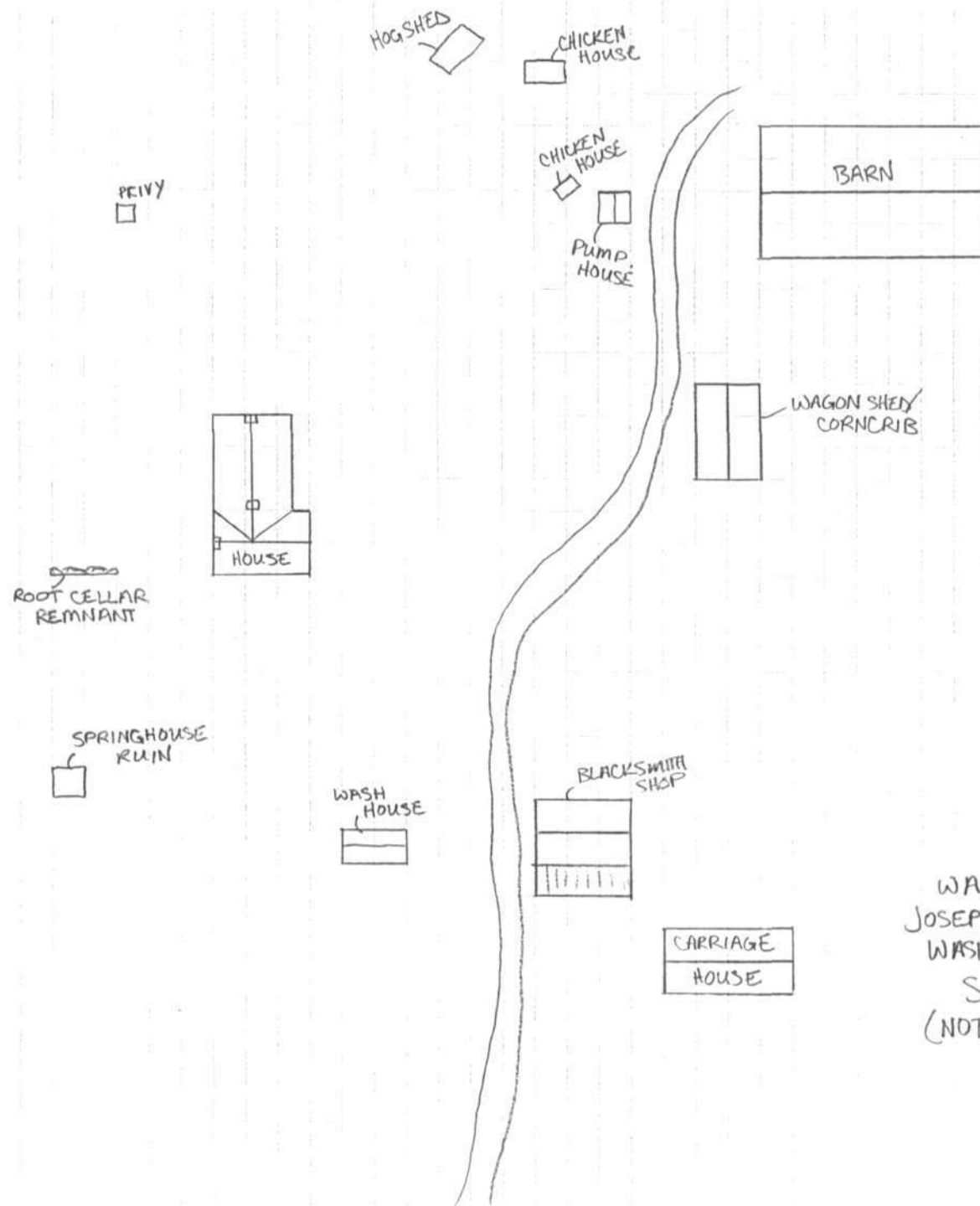
<sup>7</sup> The Mail, June 15, 1888, microfilm collection, Washington Co. Free Library, Hagerstown, MD.

<sup>8</sup> Although little Poffenberger family information is in the bible due to its early "escape" from the family, the bible is catalogued under the name "Poffenberger Bible" at the Washington Co. Historical Society, Miller House, Hagerstown, MD.

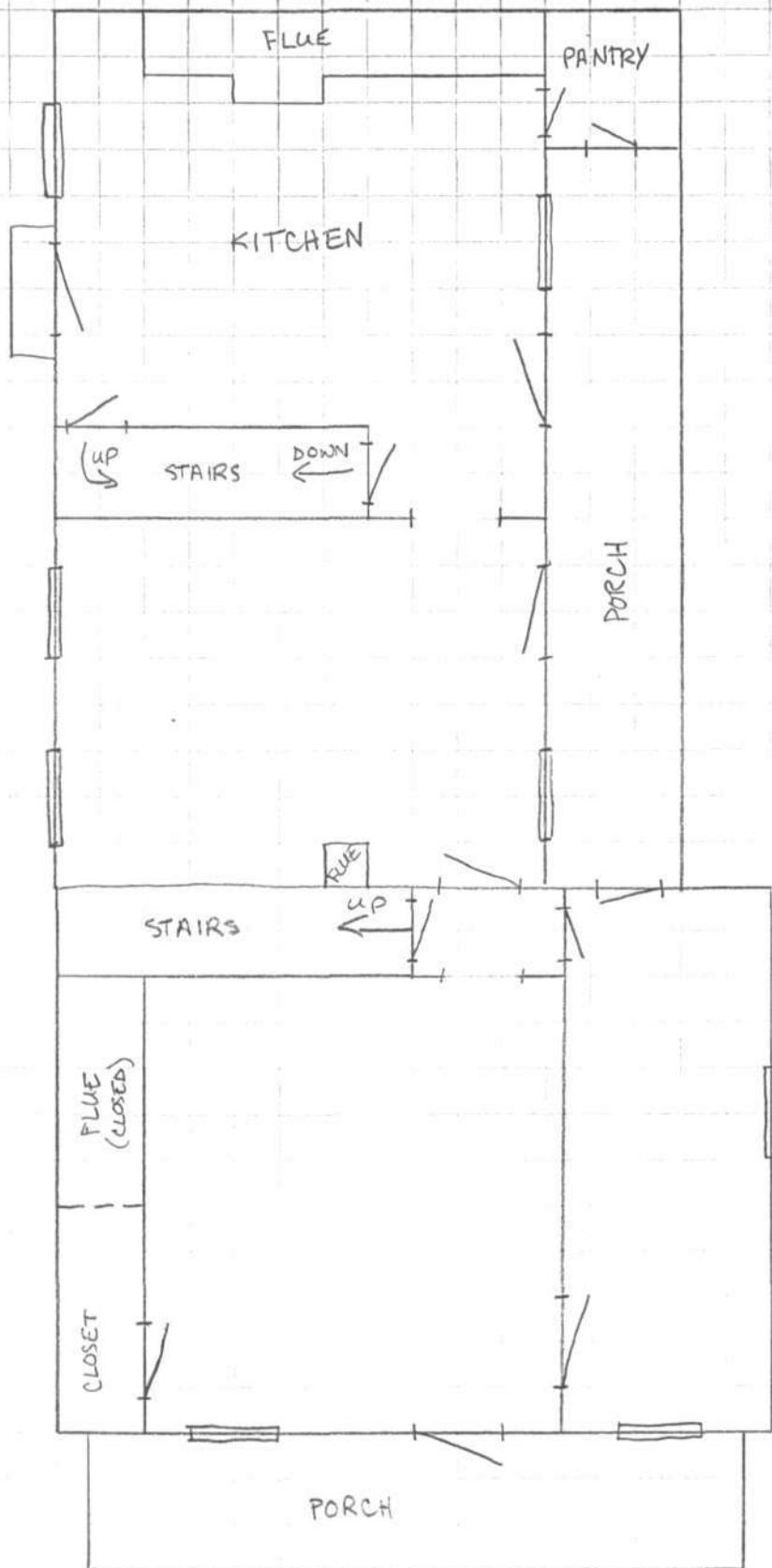
<sup>9</sup> As indicated on Alfred Poffenberger's second damage claim for his own losses during the Antietam Battle.

<sup>10</sup> Washington County Will Book H, page 73.

<sup>11</sup> T.J.C. Williams, *History of Washington County, Maryland*, pp. 1131-1132.



WA-II-279  
JOSEPH R. POFFENBERGER FARM  
WASHINGTON CO., MD  
SITE PLAN  
(NOT TO SCALE)

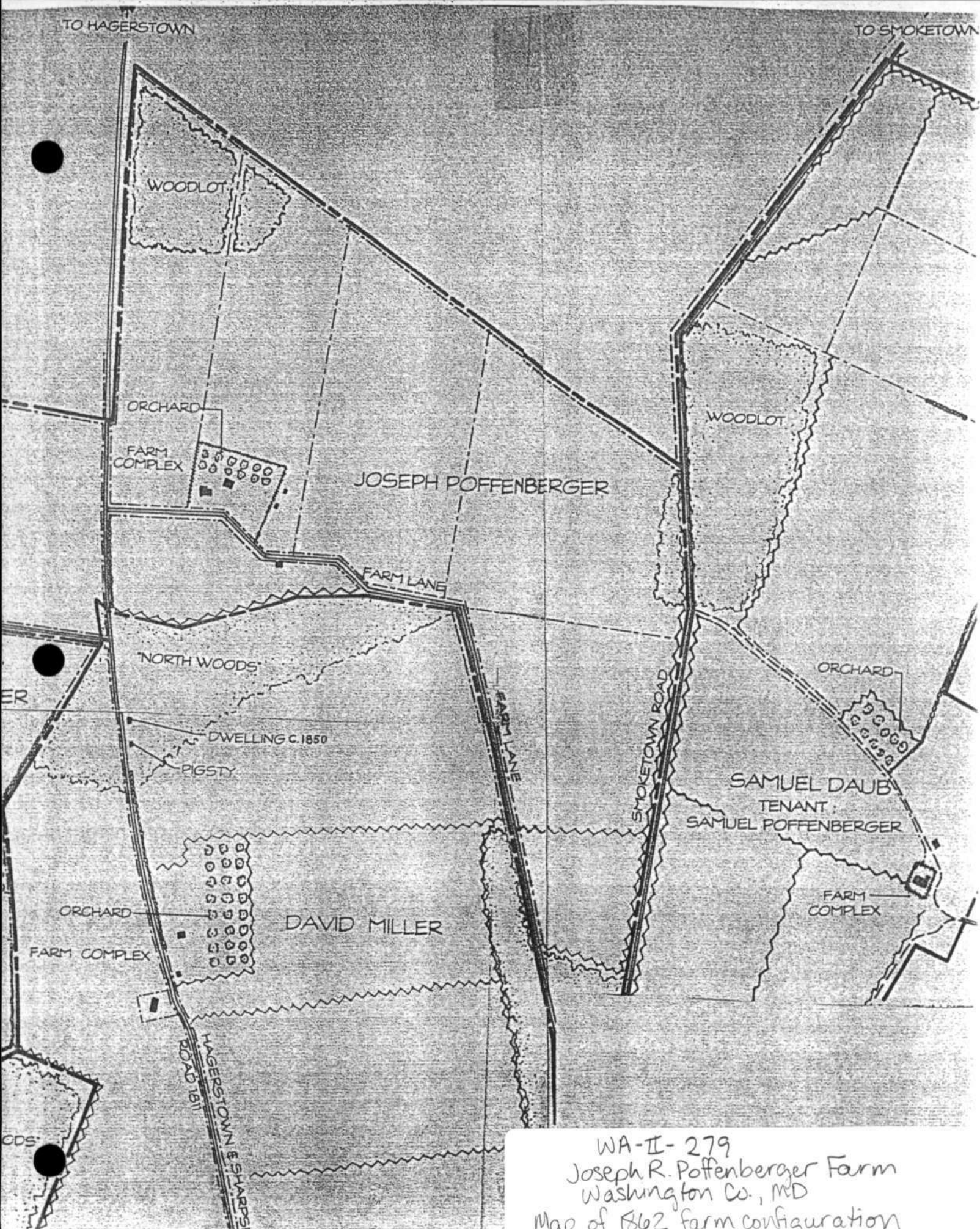


WA-II-279  
JOSEPH R. POFFENBERGER FARM  
WASHINGTON CO., MD  
1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR PLAN  
(NOT TO SCALE)

WA-II - 279  
Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
Washington Co., MD  
1859 Taggart Map







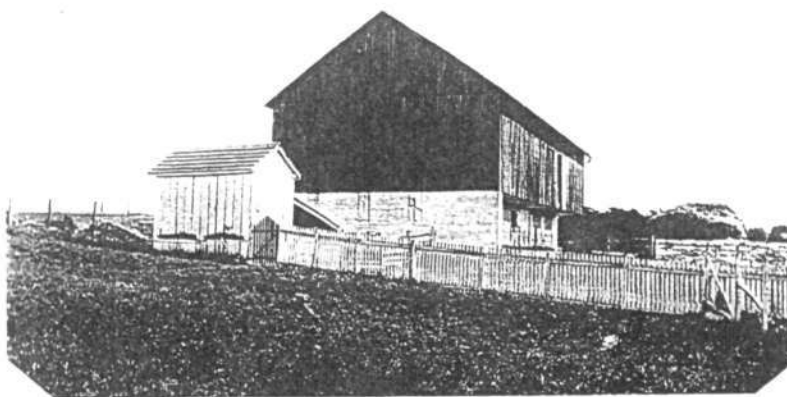
WA-II-279  
Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
Washington Co., MD  
Map of 1862 farm configuration  
(Stach & Assoc., 1996)



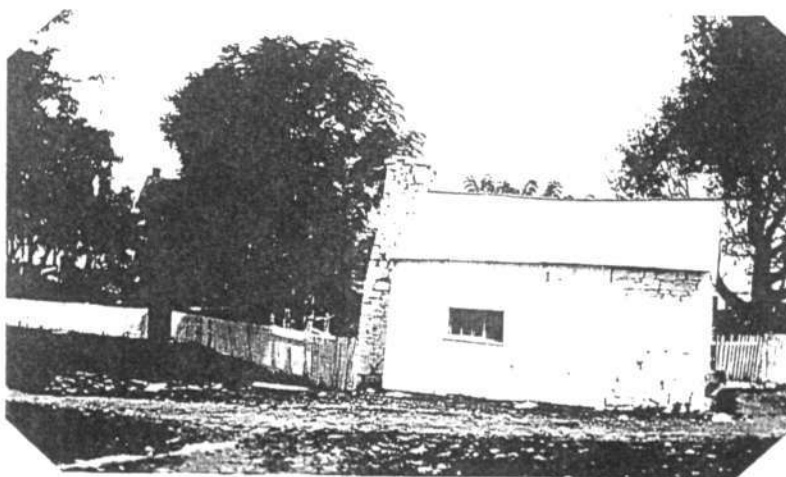
WA-II-279  
Joseph R. Poffenbeger  
Farm  
Washington Co., MD



Joseph Poffenbeger House - 1920



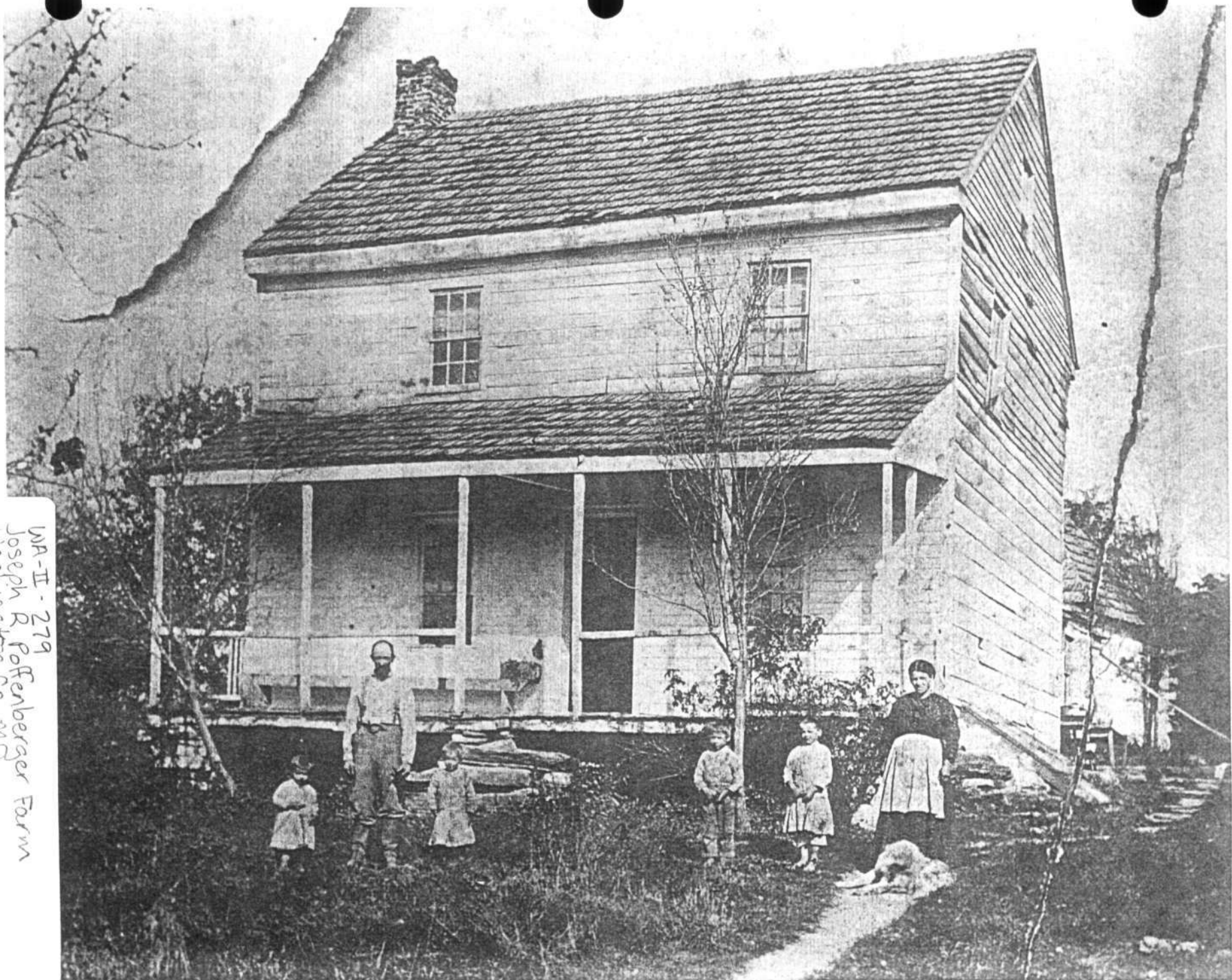
Joseph Poffenbeger Barn - 1920



Joseph Poffenbeger Wash House - 1920

Photos from the Fred W. Cross Antietam Battlefield Archives (Pages not numbered)  
1919-1926 Antietam National Battlefield Archives Notebook + Photo Album

WA-II - 279  
Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
Washington Co. Md  
Historic photo c. 1880 (Wash. Co. Hist. Soc.)





WA-II-279  
Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm  
Washington Co., MD  
Historic photo, c. 1896 (Wash. Co. Hist. Soc.)



## SHEPHERDSTOWN QUAD

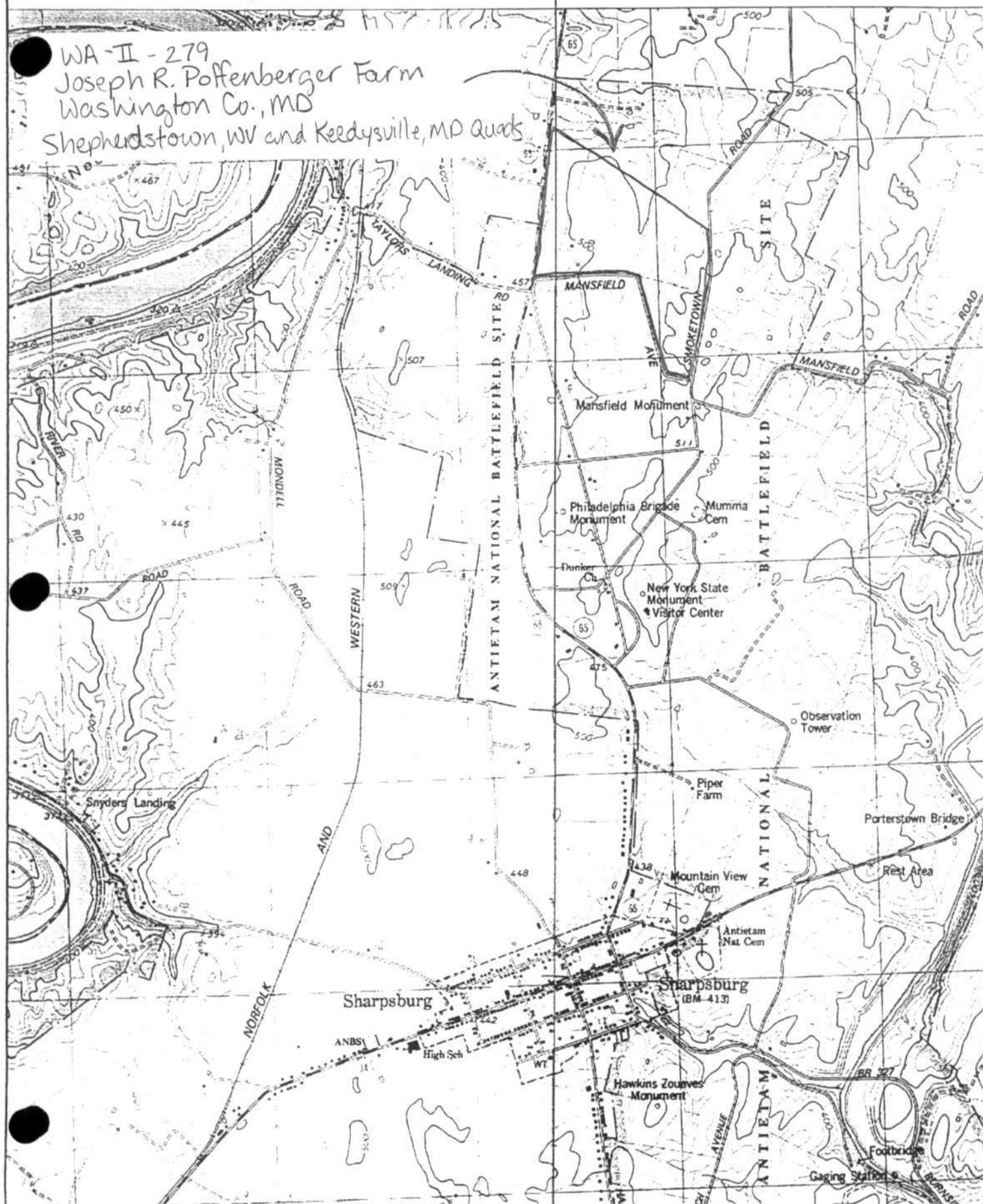
## KEEDYSVILLE QUAD

WA-II - 279

Joseph R. Poffenberger Farm

Washington Co., MD

Shepherdstown, WV and Keedysville, MD Quads





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10/30/02

MD - SHPO

Facing North - Northeast  
#1





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10/30/02

MD-SHPO

Facing North

#2



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm

Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10/30/02

MD-SHPO

facing North - Northwest

#3





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.  
Andy Macomber

10/30/02

MD-SHPO

Poffenberger House, Northwest  
#4



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm

Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10/30/02

MD-SHPO

South + East Elevations  
facing Northwest

#5



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm

Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

South Elevation  
facing North

#6





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

West + North Elevations  
facing Southeast

#7



WA-11-279

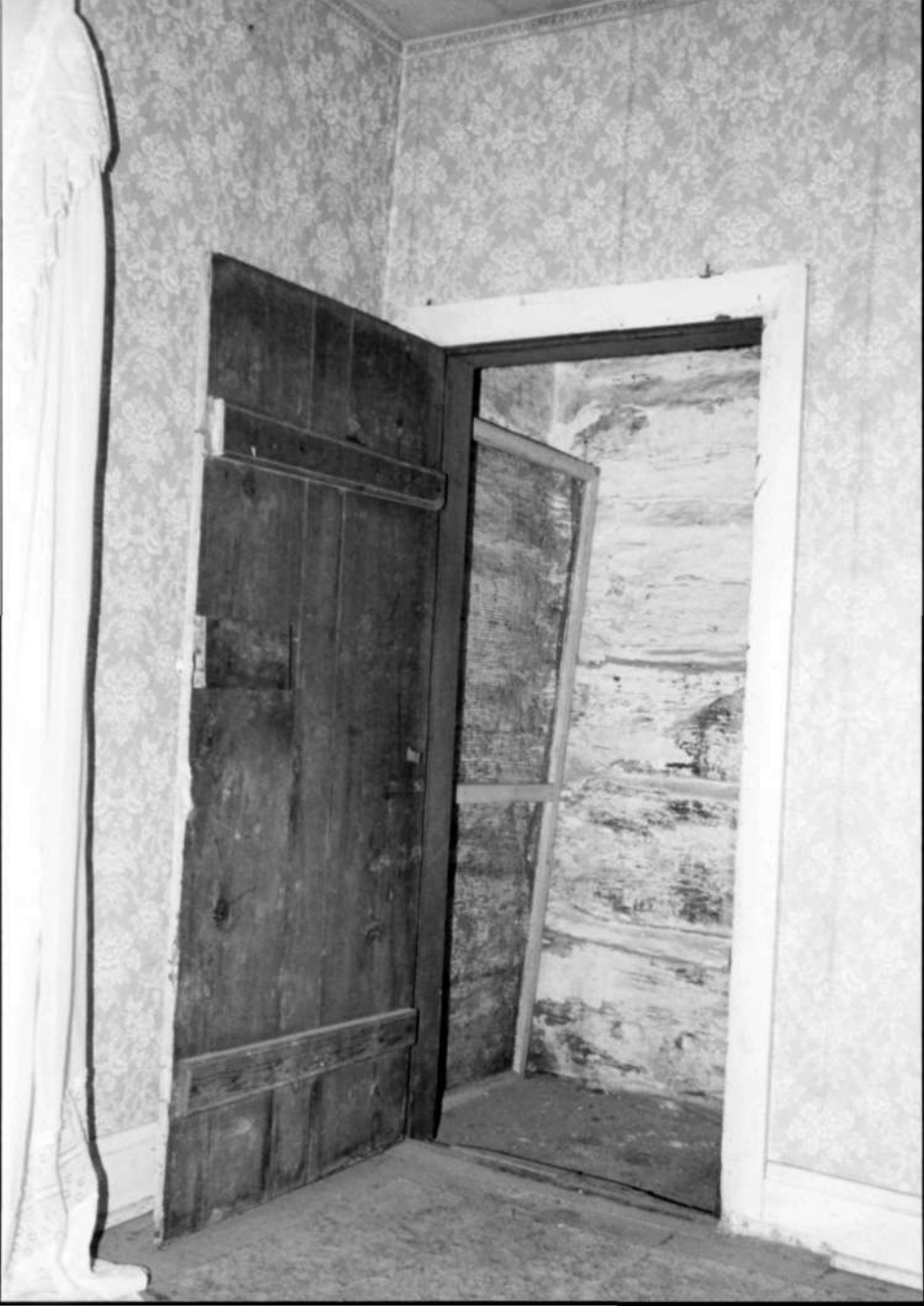
Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

East and North Elevations  
facing Southwest

#8





WA-II-279

Joseph Pottenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

West front room closet showing board +  
batten door and original log  
structure; facing Southwest

#9



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber  
10/30/02

MD - SHPO

East front room - Board & batten door  
H-L hinges, rat tail catch and  
ovolo moulding on casing  
facing Southwest  
#10



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

Kitchen facing North  
#11





WA-II-279

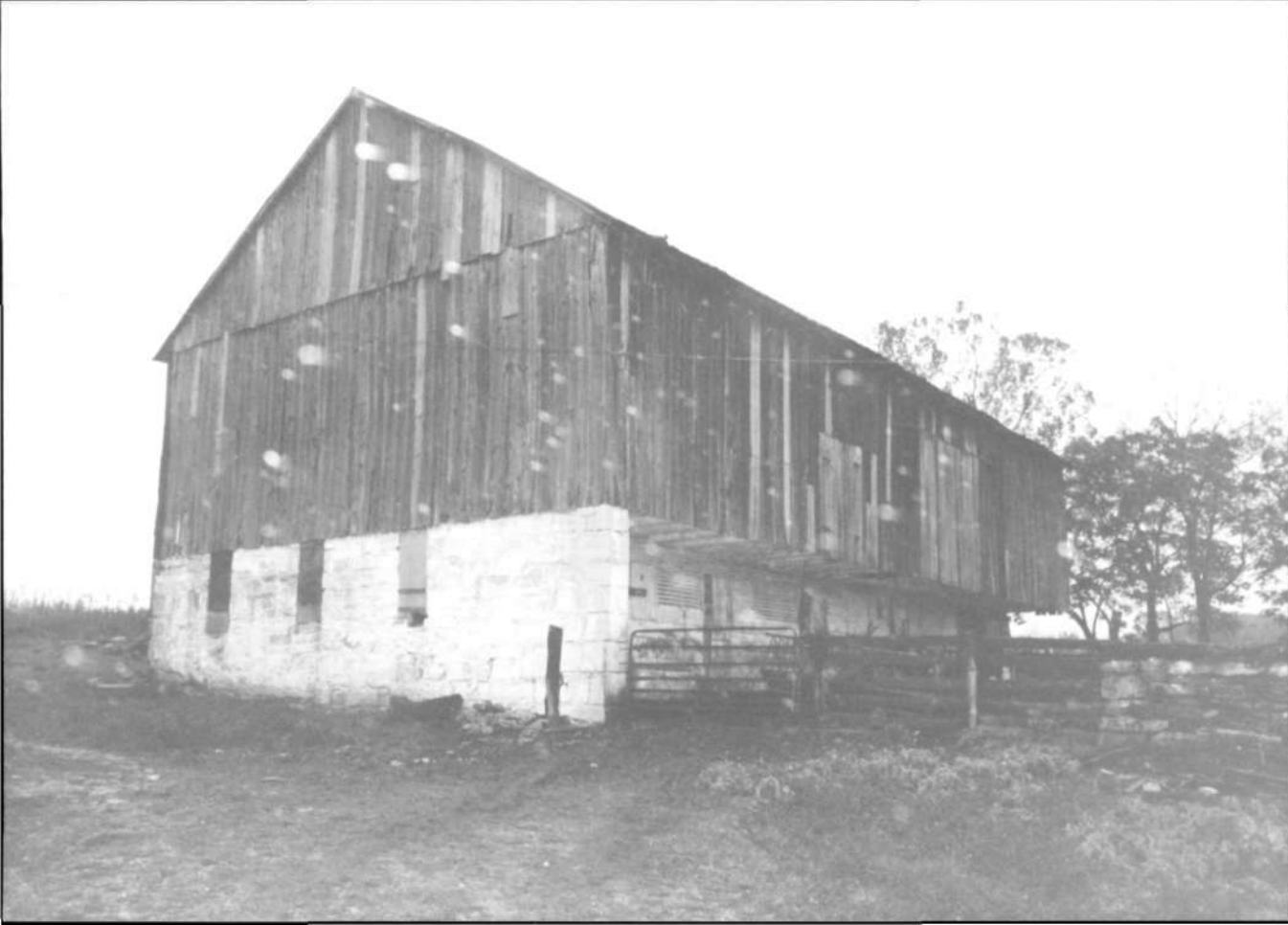
Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

Attic - showing original hand hewn  
rafters and collar ties with late  
19th Century addition attached in  
background. Facing Northeast

#12



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD,  
Andy Macomber

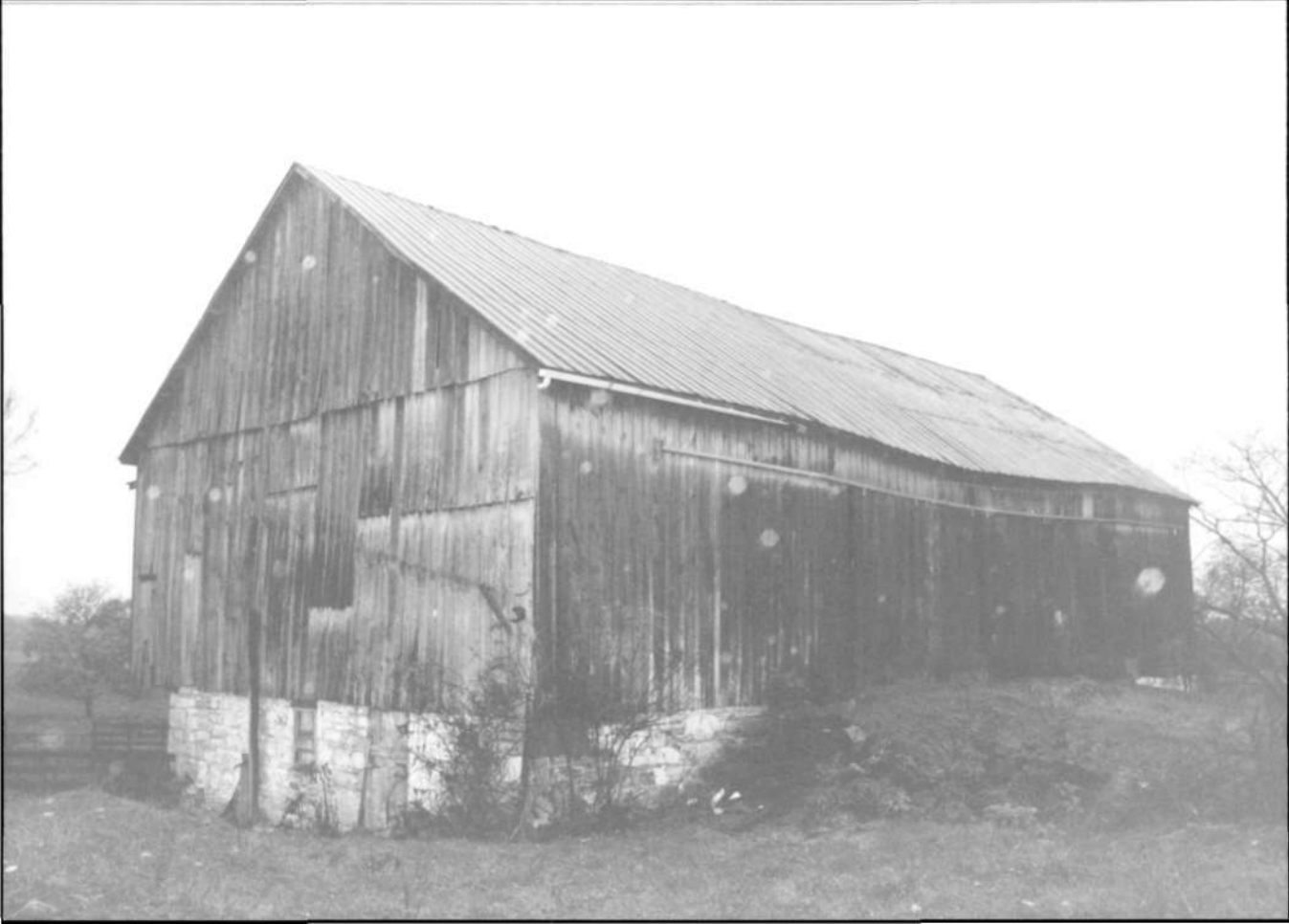
10-30-02

MD-SHPO

Pennsylvania Style Bank Barn

Facing Northeast

#13



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10-30-02

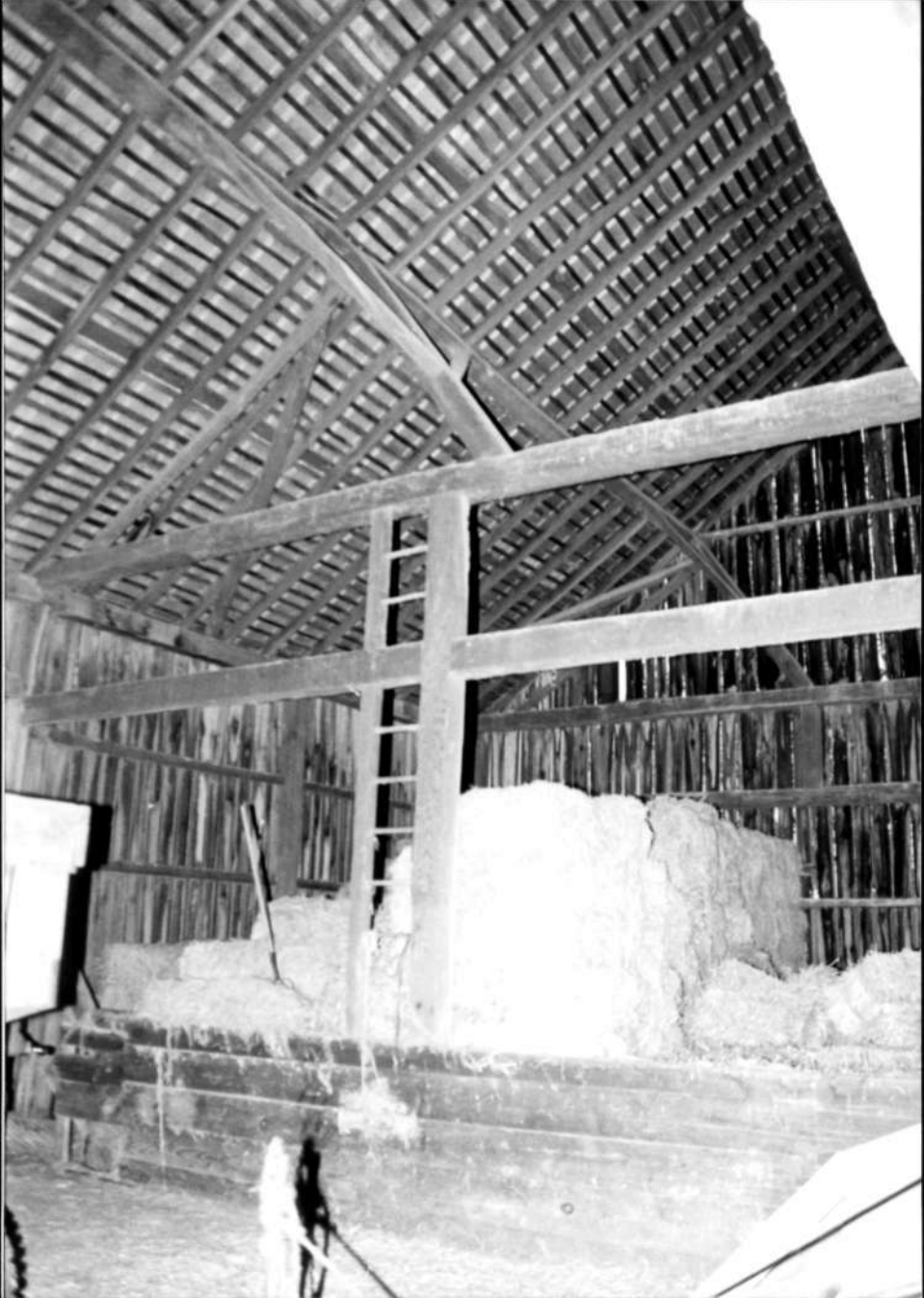
MD - SHPO

Pennsylvania Style Bank Barn

Facing Southwest

# 14





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SHPO

Barn Interior

facing Northeast

#15



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02  
MD - SHPO

Corn Crib - Wagon Shed +  
facing Southeast

#16



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm

Washington County, MD

Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SHPO

Washhouse

facing Southeast

#17





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD,  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SHPO

Washhouse facing Northwest

#18



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SHPO

Washhouse Interior facing West

#19



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

Blacksmith Shop  
Facing Southeast

#20





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD,  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SH PO

Blacksmith Shop Interior/forge  
facing Southwest

#21



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SHPO

Carriage House

Facing Northeast

#22



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD - SHPO

Pumphouse on left  
Chicken-Coop on right  
facing North

#23



WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Washington County, MD,  
Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD-SHPO

Hog pen

facing Northwest

#24





WA-II-279

Joseph Poffenberger House  
Farm

Washington County, MD.

Andy Macomber

10-30-02

MD SHPO

Outhouse  
facing Northwest

#25

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WA-II-279  
District 1  
Map 72  
Parcel 124  
MAGI # 2208465335

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Joseph Poffenberger Farm

AND/OR COMMON

included in Antietam  
Battlefield NR listing

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

East side of Maryland Rt. 65, the Sharpsburg Pike, off Mansfield Lane on

CITY, TOWN

the northern end of Antietam ☒ VICINITY OF Sharpsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

Battlefield

COUNTY

Washington

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Fred Kramer

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1102 Oak Hill Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 442

Folio #: 584

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ DETERIORATED☒ GOOD☐ RUINS☐ FAIR☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED  $\leq$  50%**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This farmstead is located on the east side of Maryland Route 65, the Sharpsburg Pike, off Mansfield Lane on the northern end of the Antietam Battlefield about two miles north of Sharpsburg in Washington County.

The buildings are situated on a bluff and face south. The house is a two story three bay L-shaped log structure sheathed with German siding. The front part of the house has few windows in relation to wall area. The main entrance is located in the central bay of the front elevation. A narrow transom over the door makes its lintel higher than those of the first story windows.

Also present on the property is a log smoke house and a log and stone spring house at one time believed to have been the structure used by nurse, Clara Barton during the Battle of Antietam in 1862. A frame bank barn is also present.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This farm complex is known historically as the Joseph Poffenberger Farm for the name of the owner during the Civil War Battle of Antietam which took place in September of 1862. Located adjacent to the North Woods the Complex at the northern edge of the Battlefield, was for a time believed to have been the site where Clara Barton worked during and after the Battle. Later research placed the site of Clara Barton's spring house at another nearby Poffenberger Farm.

Architecturally the house appears to be an early log structure. Without further research, however, an estimate of age cannot be made. Possible 18th century construction is suggested by the uneven placement of door and window heads at the front elevation

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 120 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Preservation Associates

DATE

June 1978

STREET &amp; NUMBER

109 West Main Street, Box 202

TELEPHONE

301-432-5466

CITY OR TOWN

Sharpsburg

STATE

Maryland 21782

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

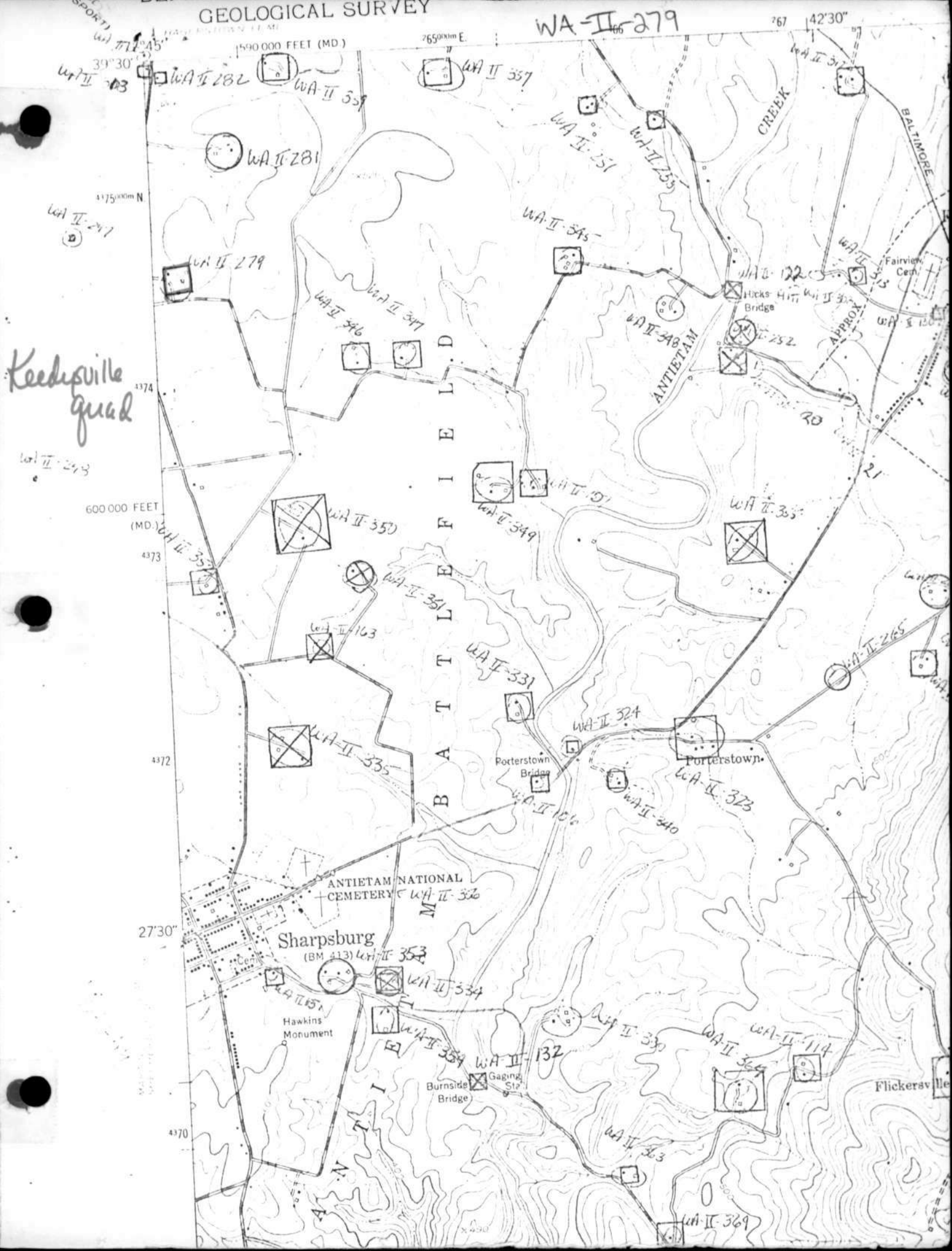
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WA-II-279

Keedysville quad







WA-II-279

S.

Feb. 1976

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-279

S. E.

Feb. 1976

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-279

S.W.

Feb. 1976

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike, Antietam

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-279

Springhouse S.E.

Feb. 1976

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike

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HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY





WA-II-219

N.W. Spruighouse

Feb. 1916

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike

PAULA STONER DILL  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-279

S. Spring House

Feb., 1976

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike

PAULA STONER D  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY



WA-II-219

Barn S.W.

Feb. 1916

Joseph Poffenberger Farm  
Antietam Battlefield  
E. side of Md. Rt. 65, the  
Sharpsburg Pike

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SITE --